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of the theory is the fact that several species of barberry in various parts of the world act as teleutospore hosts for several species of rusts, thus suggesting the possibility that at one time the barberry may have acted also as an ancestral host to the teleutospores of *P. graminis*.

HENRY C. COWLES

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THE CENTRAL BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ZOOLOGISTS

THE annual meeting of the American Society of Zoologists, Central Branch, was held at Iowa City, with headquarters at the State University of Iowa, on April 7 to 9. Officers were Edward A. Birge, University of Wisconsin, president; Michael F. Guyer, University of Cincinnati, vice-president; Charles Zeleny, University of Illinois, secretary-treasurer.

The meeting was an unusually successful one, the attendance being large and all but one of the large universities in the territory covered by this branch was represented by one or more zoologists.

There was an informal smoker at the Triangle Club on the evening of April 7, at which President MacLean, of the State University of Iowa, delivered an informal address. Other social features were a lunch held in the Bird Hall of the Museum of Natural History on Friday noon, and the annual dinner of the society at the Burkley Imperial on Friday evening, at which the annual address of the retiring president, Dr. Edward A. Birge, of the University of Wisconsin, was delivered.

The regular proceedings and reading of papers will be noticed later.

The following officers were elected for next meeting: Dr. C. E. McClung, of the University of Kansas, president; Dr. Henry F. Nachtrieb, of the State University of Minnesota, vice-president; Professor Herbert B. Neal, of Galesburg, Illinois, secretary. A committee on nomenclature to co-operate with the Eastern Branch, and ultimately with the International Association of Zoologists, in the revision of rules of nomenclature, was appointed, of which Professor C. C. Nutting, of the State University of Iowa, was chairman; the other members being Dr. H. B. Ward, of Illinois; Dr. S. W. Williston, of Chicago; Dr. C. A. Kofoid, of California, and Dr. C. H. Eigenmann, of Indiana.

The new laboratories of zoology, and the zoological museum were open for inspection and there was much favorable comment on the extent of the equipment, the size, and general style of the new building, and the exhibits in the museum.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES SECTION OF BIOLOGY

AT the regular meeting held at the American Museum on March 14, 1910, Professor Charles B. Davenport presiding, the following papers were read:

Relation between Species and Individual in the Struggle for Existence: Dr. ALEXANDER PETRUNKEVITCH.

From examples taken from the groups of spiders and insects the speaker tried to show that the advantage of the individual is often opposed to the advantage of the species. Structures and habits dangerous to the individual but of use to the species are not uncommon. Their existence proves that the individual is "enslaved" by the species, which condition may be understood only if we consider the individual a mere carrier and protector of the germ. In the evolution of species not the characters of the fittest individual are selected and transmitted to the descendant, but those of the fittest to preserve the progeny.

A Case of Apparent Reversion among Gastropods: Miss ELVIRA WOOD.

The ornament of *Potamidopsis tricarinatum* begins as two continuous spirals, passes through a stage with two rows of nodes and interpolates a third row of nodes in the adult. *Potamidopsis trochleare* has three rows of nodes in the young, later loses the median row and has in the adult two continuous spirals. This suggests reversion in the latter species, but in *P. tricarinatum* the upper spiral disappears before the introduction of the subsutural and median rows of nodes, while in *P. trochleare* the upper continuous spiral of the adult is developed from the subsutural nodes, hence the two spirals of the adult are not equivalent to the two spirals of the young *P. tricarinatum*. *P. trochleare* illustrates progressive development resulting in simplification of structures.

The Preparation of a Museum Anatomical Model: Mr. IGNAZ MATAUSCH.

The speaker gave an account of the successive stages in the construction of an anatomical model of a spider, for museum exhibition. He exhibited a number of dissected specimens of *Lycosa* upon which the model is based, as well as a series of wax models which are made preliminary to casting the final model.

L. HUSSAKOF,
Secretary